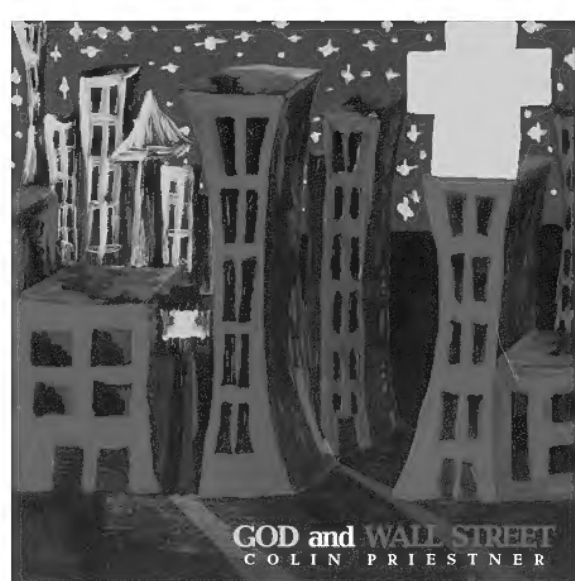


# Folk artist Priestner ready to rally with fame



## Colin Priestner

*God and Wall Street*  
Blatant Records  
www.colinpriestner.com

LACINA DESJARLAIS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Priestner's album would fit best into the folk/alternative rock genre, with its mellow but rock-ish tracks. However, while his album can be easily shunted into one musical genre, his distinct and impacting lyrics simply cannot.

Each track on the album stands alone as a beautiful piece of poetry. While Priestner may not have the prettiest voice, his emotion is always evident. From tackling issues like religion and politics, to dealing with bad days and lost loves, the album covers a broad spectrum of topics that provide us with Priestner's view of society.

Priestner has discovered a unique blend of songs, and with *God and Wall Street*, he's created an album that has a wealth of substance and relevance to important issues. Oh, and it simply sounds great.

## Colin Priestner

With Dan Priestner  
Friday, 20 October at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café

LACINA DESJARLAIS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Everyone dreams about becoming a rock star at some point in his or her life, either for the fame or the money, or maybe just for the groupies. Unfortunately, though, most of us will never get to live out our *Entourage* fantasies and will have to settle for playing lead air guitar.

There are a few lucky people who make it into the business, however, and singer-songwriter Colin Priestner is one of them. The University of Alberta student—and former nationally ranked tennis player—has traded in his air guitar and tennis racquet for a real six string, and as a result has officially entered the Canadian folk/alternative music scene.

"I wasn't liking the pressure or the stress of [tennis], and so I started writing songs to deal with it," Priestner says. "I always knew I wanted to play songs and write them, but I couldn't play guitar, so I learned how to do that and wrote a bunch of songs."

"Besides, music has always been the biggest part of my life. Long before I started writing songs I would tell my parents as a joke, 'I'm going to be a famous singer'—not that I'm famous in the least bit," Priestner adds quickly.

All joking aside, it seems as though

Priestner really is on his way towards becoming a well-known figure, judging by recent audience reactions to his music. Not only have his songs been getting radio play on local stations, but he has also recently completed a tour of the northern US with one of his favorite folk singers, Dan Bern.

Despite gaining popularity with a larger fan base, Priestner says that the first audience he ever got approval from was his own father.

"I remember the first night I got back [from the US] I said [to my dad], 'I wrote a lot of songs; I want to play them for you,'" Priestner says. "I knew he was getting ready to cringe because, well, what did he know? To him, I didn't have any musical skills or talent or anything. He was shocked at first; I think he was expecting something bad. But it was immediate support."

After gaining approval from his dad, Priestner decided to take his music to the public. He started by taking the stage and playing open mic nights at venues like the Sidetrack Café.

"A guy who'd been playing me [in tennis] for years and years said it best after he saw me perform one night during the summer. He said, 'Well, you've been playing music for three months and you're way better at it than you are at tennis, which you've been playing for 15 years,' so I knew I wasn't embarrassing myself."

It was at this point that Priestner decided that it was time to cut an album with a band, and so he went into the studio to record his first full-length



SHAHEED MERANI

**ARE YOU THERE, GOD?** No, he's on Wall Street, according to Priestner's CD.

album, *God and Wall Street*.

Armed with an arsenal of songs and a great band to back him up, Priestner will be taking the stage at the Sidetrack Café again this Friday, not as a mere open mic performer, but instead as an artist releasing his latest work.

"It's going to be big, huge—I hope," Priestner laughs. "It's the first time I'll get to play live with the band who recorded with me. This show will be a whole new ball game. I do good impressions too, but you'll have to come to the show to hear those."

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# One pimpin' documentary

Despite its unnecessary commentary, *Tales of the Rat Fink* is still a phat film

## Tales of the Rat Fink

Directed by Ron Mann  
Voiceovers by John Goodman, Jay Leno, Brian Wilson, Tom Wolfe and Matt Groening  
Runs 20-23 October  
Metro Cinema

JASKARAN SINGH  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Before it was socially daring for hip-hop star Xzbit to take your beaten up automobile and have a gang of professionals fit it with rims, hydraulics and the odd goldfish tank, there was Ed "Big Daddy" Roth—the pioneer of the dome-top car, pinstriped hot rod, airbrushed T-shirt and, most importantly, the tongue-and-cheek jab at Mickey Mouse commercialism via the character of the Rat Fink.

*Tales of the Rat Fink* is a film that chronicles the life and times of Ed Roth, an artist, hot rod designer and pop-culture architect. The man was an icon, and his artwork and visions have ingrained themselves within North American culture.

With that in mind, it's important to mention that the movie is not a biography, but rather a brief documentary about the life and impact of the iconoclast. The subject of the work is his art, not his life—which, in turn, is equally fascinating, as hinted by the minor details dispersed throughout the movie. By maintaining this focus, director Ron Mann keeps the spotlight on Roth's automobiles, caricatures and unique perception of individualism through expression.

Many unorthodox directing liberties are used to help describe the eccentric impact Roth has had on North American culture. For example, there are speaking hot rods—by which I mean cars with voice-overs—and they seem more distractive than informative. Most of these brief interludes are dull, and act as a bookmark



between the illuminating biographical sections, and the brief Rat Fink interludes. Aesthetically, these approaches give off the impression that they come directly out of the mind of Ed himself—but they don't, and these liberties often get in the way of the pace and the storytelling.

**Many unorthodox directing liberties are used to help describe the eccentric impact Roth has had on North American culture.**

However, the welcome addition of having John Goodman do a first-person voice-over as Roth livens up the technique. His voice fits together, like a missing puzzle piece, with the man we see in the pictures. It helps to engross the viewer, as if the movie were a conversation rather than an objective view of a subject. Goodman's voice-over, along with the bizarre Rat Fink animated shorts, comprise the

strongest features of the film.


Most of the screen time is shared between slideshows of Roth, Rat Fink shorts, and television clips which range from commercials for Rat Fink model kits, to *Leave It To Beaver* episodes in which the latest fad among the children are T-shirts that coincidentally resemble club shirts for hot rod clubs designed by Roth in the '50s. Save for the Rat Fink shorts, none of these snippets are spared from voice dubbing. In the case of John Goodman's narration, it works, but at times, it's hard to discern between what's legitimate footage what has been tampered with by the production companies.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Ed Roth's hot rods and cartoons have had as big an impact of our culture as Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup, or John Wayne's macho demeanor. *Tales of the Rat Fink* gives a full, yet brief, overview of Roth's accomplishments, even though it's often bogged down by storytelling preferences. Aesthetic may be emphasized over narrative, but when the subject matter is someone such as Ed Roth, following one's artistic preferences only seems like the right thing to do.



AMANDA ASH

**SING ME SPANISH TECHNO** Katherine Calder took Neko Case's spot in The New Pornographers' show Tuesday night.



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This guy is trying to get to platform 9 3/4, but he can't because he's a muggle. Little does he know, that if he jumps into the SUB elevator, taps the third floor button, takes a right, then a left, he'll be in the *Gateway* office. There, he can volunteer for *Gateway A&E* (meetings at 5pm) and use the section editor, Amanda, as a portkey to get straight to Diagon Alley. Amanda doesn't discriminate against muggles, or mudbloods; she's a mudblood herself.

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"Bucket o' Kats" 5 bottles of local Alley Kat beer \$20 (incl. tax, mention this ad)



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# In the Hallowed Halls of Academia

Be it research or relaxation, the libraries on campus are always bustling with student activity. Ever wonder where the best place is to catch up on some last-minute cramming, or to just kick back and chill out? Read on ...

by MARIA KOTOVYCH  
photos by LAUREN STIEGLITZ



As I sat in the library one September day, the sound of loud music blaring from someone's iPod kept on drawing me away from my books. Common courtesy has always kept me quiet whenever I entered the land of the books—a sort of unspoken library etiquette. Libraries are, after all, a place for quiet study, a place to learn and a place to access resources. But when scores of people gather in a common space—especially in libraries where a calm work environment is expected—actual rules are necessary to ensure that everyone can benefit from that space.

Rather than making me grit my teeth, my noisy neighbour inspired me to go on an investigative journey, visiting the largest libraries on main campus to observe other breaches of etiquette. You see, there are three groupings for noise allowance on campus: the “Common Areas,” which allow conversational noise, because the space is intended for group work; the “Quiet Areas,” where oral communication is limited to whispering; and finally, a few “Silent Areas,” which ask students not to talk at all. Every library indicates very clearly which floor allows for what level of talking. Furthermore, the University's website has a Code of Library Conduct which further outlines the rules. So, keeping in mind that we're all educated and civilized human beings, I set off on my library adventure, spending half an hour during the day and half an hour in the evening.

## Cameron Science and Technology Library

3:45pm. A Tuesday. The 3rd floor. A quiet area. I headed over to some carrels, and just as I sat down, I noticed how *not* quiet this floor was. I was surrounded by group discussions all around me. Three guys were working on a group project to my left, two women, with their books all packed up, sat giggling at the carrels to my right, and at a nearby table, there were some guys sitting around and talking, and they had food and drinks spread out all over the table.

Seriously, I thought, if people want to sit around chatting with friends and having a damn potluck, do they have to do it in the library? Can't they take it downstairs to the CAB cafeteria? Even as I walked around the rest of this floor, I noticed just how noisy it was. I tried sending these people telepathic messages to remind them of the common area on the main floor in Cameron where they could sit and do group work, but that didn't seem to work. A library should not be a gather space for socializing.

My evening visit to Cameron library was at 7:30pm on the same day. Again, I headed up to the 4th floor. Just as I sat down at the carrels, a woman pulled out her cellphone, but luckily, the person she was trying to call wasn't there, so the poor thing had to resort to doing her school work. Boo hoo. For the most part, however, the floor was very quiet that evening.

## Some interesting factoids:

- Cameron Library contains newspapers from the Northwest Territories and Yukon.
- This library also has a huge collection of maps and other cool map-like things (atlases, globes and more).
- A student was stabbed in this library back in 2004. (Talk about breaches of etiquette!)

**Seriously, I thought, if people want to sit around chatting with friends and having a damn potluck, do they have to do it in the library?**

## John A Weir Memorial Law Library

Autumn drops beautiful colours around Edmonton, and campus is one place to enjoy the changing leaves. I wanted to enjoy these rich colours on a warm Thursday (7:30pm), so I took the scenic route to the Law Library. Once inside, I headed up to the 3rd floor, and sat down at a table. It was very quiet, although a woman was listening to music a little too loudly on her headphones. Even though she was about 15 feet away, I could hear the faint booming coming from her headset. As if music wasn't enough, she decided that this would be a good time to eat something—carrots. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the sound of this woman's crunching reverberated throughout the quiet library.

Once I was sick of listening to Bugs Bunny's crunching, I decided to take a walk around the floor, and was immediately struck by the amount of food and food-related garbage that was strewn everywhere; I saw pop cans, a Styrofoam container, plastic cutlery and napkins. As I walked past one student, the smell of banana wafted up to my nose.

Being in this particular library, I felt the urge to read a legal document, so I looked up the University's Code of Library Conduct, and found the following quote on the website: “Insects attracted by food and beverages pose a danger to the library collection.” As far as I could tell, the Law Library didn't have any signs asking people not to eat or drink inside, so perhaps the library could put up a sign stating that people who want to eat while studying must bring enough to share with everyone. Even better would be if students did *not* bring food and beverages into the libraries, so as to keep insects away.

Tuesday: 3:20pm. This time, I went to the McLean Reading Room, which is truly the jewel of the entire library.

It was very quiet here, although there was a bit of noise coming from the Law atrium below. There are a couple of nice group work areas at one end of the room. The tables in are really spacious, with hookups for laptops. Some natural light streams down from above, and there's a fluorescent light for each table. Kudos to the person who designed these tables for realizing how important it is for students to have plenty of light.

## An interesting factoid:

- The Special Collections room contains American and English legal works from the 18th century, along with pre-Confederation legal works.

## Rutherford North Humanities and Social Sciences Library

I chose to spend my Thursday, 8:30pm visit on the 3rd floor, a silent area. I was sitting there, enjoying the beautiful peace and quiet, when a cellphone rang somewhere on the other side of the library. The ringing was followed by one of those typical loud, one-sided cellphone conversations that I'm sure everyone wanted to hear. Maybe cellphone users think that they're just so extremely important that they don't need to take their calls outside so that their fellow students can study in peace and quiet. But my tuition rates and I beg to differ; we have come to study, and deserve to have some silence. I really, really, *really* wish that people would turn off their cellphones in the library, or put them on vibrate and take calls outside.

After I spent some time at the carrel, I walked around the library to see if there was any garbage lying around. For the most part, the library was very clean, although I did find two unused packs of 4-square-inch sterile gauze sponges. Is this library a hot spot for practicing med or nursing students? I was a bit confused by my find.

My next visit to Rutherford North was on a Tuesday at 11:15am, and I headed up to the 5th floor carrels overlooking the entrance to both of the Rutherford libraries—a quiet area, and for the most part, it was. When I went for a walk around the library, I spotted a couple staring longingly into one another's eyes. Aw. Ain't that sweet?

After this, I returned to the silent floor and found it to be just that. Well done, 3rd floor inhabitants.

## An interesting factoid:

- The 2nd floor of Rutherford North is the music library. There are tons of resources there, and you can even get information about recitals and concerts put on by University students, choirs and Faculty.

## Rutherford South Humanities and Social Sciences Library

Close your eyes, think about the phrase “the hallowed halls of academia,” and notice the first image that enters your





mind. What do you see? Does it look anything like the giant Reading Room at Rutherford South? Is it the giant Reading Room at Rutherford South?

Any time I enter this room, I feel like I've magically left the U of A and entered a centuries-old, ivy-league library like something that belongs at Oxford. For me and my often over-active imagination, *this* is what a library should look like. I was really looking forward to visiting Rutherford South.

It's too bad that my visits to the Reading Room of Rutherford South (a quiet area) were marred by the rude and obnoxious behaviour of some of the students there. My Tuesday morning visit (at 11:25am) was not very pleasant. As has been the case with all the libraries that I observed, the majority of students there were well behaved. However, in Rutherford South, there was also a lot of overly loud chit-chat all around me. Students consumed food and beverages that could have been consumed in HUB mall. Cellphones rang.

In addition to being the most library-esque, Rutherford South also holds the distinction of being the only library where I observed worse behaviour in the evening than during the day. During my Monday 6pm visit, I noticed all the usual violations: cellphones, loud group conversations, and so on. A group a few tables away caught my attention. There sat a couple, along with their friend. What caught my attention about this group was that the young man was giving his girlfriend a shoulder massage, because, as we all know, the library was designed for this sort of thing. After a bit of that, the guy moved his hands down and started to massage something a bit lower down. I can't be certain, but I think he started to massage her ass, because she and the other woman started to laugh loudly. Following this, the guy and his honey-buns began to admire her nails, and then compared the size of their hands. An arm-wrestling match followed a knuckle-cracking contest between all three of them.

What enlightened scholars walk these hallowed halls indeed!

**Some interesting factoids:**

- The basement of Rutherford South has a Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, a collection that includes English works from the 18th century, an Alberta Folklore Collection, and many other rare pieces.

**Etiquette breaches exist in all libraries, but I'm happy to report that they are the exception, not the rule, as majority of people who come to the libraries use them appropriately.**

**Winspear Business Reference Library**

Okay, so I didn't know until very, very recently (when I started working on this article) that there was a library in the Business building. Paying a visit to this library would allow me to explore a corner of the campus that I had never seen before.

This visit occurred on a Tuesday afternoon at 2:45pm. I started off my visit with a wander around the smallish library. On one side of the main floor is the common area, while the other side is a quiet area, so when I sat in the quiet area, I could hear the discussions coming from the common area. Even though the library put up a sign asking students in the common area to watch the volumes of their voices, I wondered about the logic

of organizing a small space in such a way; it's kind of like having a "peeing" and a "non-peeing" section in a swimming pool.

Regardless, the library has many very nice features. There are beautiful leather couches and chairs. Yes, you heard me. Leather.

I went upstairs to check out the small second floor, and as I came down, I saw a couple smooching in the carrels. (Scandalous!) Then I went to the librarian and tattled. So there.

My Monday evening visit (at 7pm) was very pleasant. It was so quiet that I could hear a pin drop. (Fortunately the students had enough etiquette not to throw pins around the library.) The large windows allowed sunshine to stream through. Even though it was still very busy this evening, the library was very quiet.

**An interesting factoid:**

- This library has study carrels that offer priority to students with disabilities.

**HT Coutts Education & Physical Education Library**

I visited this library on a Monday afternoon at 12:30pm. At first, I went to the second floor, which is a quiet area. For the most part, it was indeed very quiet there. The basement of this library has a common area, which was very busy at this time, and a big group work room, which was empty, surprisingly enough. The second floor has nice big windows beside the tables, so there was plenty of natural light when I was working there.

My Monday evening visit was at 8:15pm, and I noticed how quiet and empty the library was at this time. There were only four other people in on the 2nd floor the whole time I was there.

**An interesting factoid:**

- In the Coutts library, you can find a historical collection that includes old

textbooks, a Curriculum Bibliography, and children's books.

**John W Scott Health Sciences Library**

Deep within the maze that is the Health Sciences Centre/U of A hospital/Medical Sciences Building/Clinical Sciences Building, there is a library. It's a large, well-lit library with natural light and an open-concept design. Each floor has a different noise allowance, but during both of my visits (a Tuesday at 6:30pm and a Thursday at 12:10pm), it was quiet. I spent my time on floor "1 a," the silent area, where I heard—wait for it—a cell-phone (coming from another floor) ringing with the *Mission Impossible* theme song.

During my afternoon visit, I was sitting at a carrel, when a woman walked past, and left a strong trail of perfume. Now, unless this woman was Pepé le Pew (and she wasn't), she should have reconsidered spraying that entire bottle of perfume on herself. Nobody, and I mean *nobody* can ever measure up to the coolness and charisma of Pepé le Pew.

**An interesting factoid:**

- The Rawlinson Rare Book Collection housed in this library features books that date back to the 16th century.

My library tour: completed. Clearly there are a few students who have very interesting notions about what constitutes proper library etiquette. Obviously the etiquette breaches that I observed might not have happened if I had visited on a different day, or at a different time, and the purpose of my observations wasn't to make broad generalizations about each library. Etiquette breaches exist in all libraries, but I'm happy to report that they are the exception, not the rule, as majority of people who come to the libraries use them appropriately.

Now that mid-terms are creeping up, please take advantage of everything your library can offer. Just play nicely, okay?



# Bears host Huskies with season on the line

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

While the other team that wears green and gold in Edmonton decided that the playoffs aren't really their bag this year, the Bears football team still has a legitimate chance of crashing the post-season party. This Saturday, as Alberta takes on Saskatchewan, there's more at stake than a playoff berth, as the winning team will have the best chance of hosting a playoff game on 4 November.

Saskatchewan looked like they would cruise to a second-place finish in the Canada West division, but when the unranked Regina Rams upset the third-ranked Huskies 32-31 last Saturday, Alberta's playoff picture took a quick turn for greener pastures. A victory this weekend would all but guarantee a playoff berth for the Bears, and if they round out the season by beating Regina, the following week Foote Field could play host to a Canada West semi-final playoff game.

Bears' offensive coordinator Terry Eisler said that Alberta will definitely be looking at this game as a ticket to a home playoff match in a couple of weeks.

"We are preparing as if this is a playoff game," Eisler said. "Not winning against Saskatchewan really compounds things next week, and based on Regina's schedule, things would get difficult for us."

Alberta has to make some major adjustments, however, to beat Saskatchewan this weekend. The most obvious of which is to make fewer mental errors. In their last two games against Simon Fraser and Calgary, Alberta was penalized an average of 130 yards per game. The Huskies, however, will make quick work of the Bears if given the opportunity.



PETE YEE

**BARRELLING THROUGH** Adam Cottrell (76) gets taken down in the midst of Alberta's 33-10 victory over the Calgary Dinos Saturday night at Foote Field.

"There's no way we can beat Saskatchewan if we play an undisciplined game," Alberta running back/kick returner Kendall Jeske said. "One thing we're really going to have to focus on is how to be disciplined, because [the Huskies] are a better team than Calgary; we can't take as many penalties as we have been."

There's some bad blood between the teams that stems from the last two Hardy Cups—the Canada West Championship—in which the Huskies handed the Bears consecutive losses

and went on to the Vanier Cup.

"The one thing that [head coach Jerry] Friesen and all the other coaches have tried to tell the players this week was to certainly maintain the aggression, but there's a point where you have to stop and not cross that line," Eisler admitted. "Against Calgary, things got a little bit chippy; we took some penalties that were happening all year, so we spent a lot of time this week paying attention to that and trying to clean that up for this upcoming game."

Another hurdle the Bears will face

is scoring on a strong Saskatchewan defence. When these teams met in the first game of the season, Alberta couldn't score a touchdown and had to settle for two field goals on the losing end of a 27-6 romp.

"I think each week we've made a progression based on some of the personnel changes we had from last year," Eisler said. "It takes a bit of time to fit the system to the ability levels of the offence. [Scoring] is going to be a challenge, but I think our guys are up to it. You'll see us put the ball in the

end zone certainly more than we did the first week."

Perhaps the biggest motivator for Alberta this weekend will be the revenge factor.

"They've beaten us the last two years in big games and that's something that's in the back of our mind and we want to get that monkey off our back," Eisler noted. "There's a sense of urgency this week to make sure that transfers to the field on Saturday evening."

Kickoff is at 7pm Saturday at Foote Field.



FILE PHOTO: ERINNEFENWICK

**SHE'S MINE** Panda Natalie Swain (black) is out for blood. Bison blood.

## Out for revenge, soccer Pandas face the Bisons of Manitoba

VERONICA DOLEMAN  
Sports Staff

The Manitoba Bisons handed the fifth-ranked Pandas soccer team their first loss of the season on 24 September. This weekend, Alberta (7-2-1) will get a shot at redemption as they host the Bisons and the Regina Cougars (1-9-0).

"Manitoba played a great game the last time we played them," Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen admitted. "They just managed to take advantage of a small breakdown that we had in our game. They were able to capitalize on a break-out and finish in the back of the net. We'll have to be better with our possession, better with our attacking, and in the back just fill our gaps better so they can't use what they use best, which is the through balls and attacking."

The Bisons (3-6-1) should be especially tough this weekend because they hold the final Canada West playoff spot by a tenuous one-point margin. Manitoba has never made the playoffs.

"They're fighting hard," Jepsen said. "They would like to [finish higher] so they're really going to be hungry for some points. I imagine they will come out with a lot of bang. I predict you'll see a fantastic matchup between Des[iree]

Scott, their national team player, and Keisha Wallin, our first-year back."

With only four games left in the regular season, Sunday's game will have huge implications on not only the Bisons, but also Alberta, who sit in second place in the conference tied with UBC, but with a game in hand.

**"I predict you'll see a fantastic matchup between Des[iree] Scott, their national team player, and Keisha Wallin, our first-year back."**

**PANDAS COACH LIZ JEPSEN**

Meanwhile, Calgary sits only one point back in the standings, and Victoria has all but clinched first place with a 10-0-1 record, but the second place finisher will gain a bye in the playoffs.

"At this stage of the game, Victoria has run away with first spot," Jepsen explained. "I think three of our four [remaining] games are going to be

really challenging, and I don't disregard Regina; Regina is better than they've ever been."

While Alberta has been highly successful this season, they've done anything but light up the scoreboard like they have in seasons past. Through ten games, the Pandas have managed a sparse 15 goals, fifth in the conference. Jepsen explained that the team was still getting scoring opportunities, but was unable to capitalize.

"It all comes down to the attacking and the finishing. We've just been working on different phases of our play-developing. Making sure our backs are strong, making sure our mids are strong, making sure our strikers are strong; we're coming to a point where everything should come together," Jepsen said. "I would say at this stage in the game we have to have a whole team working together well as a unit and creating different looks from different parts of the field and that should make us more successful in our attack."

The Pandas will start the weekend off against the Cougars on Saturday at noon. The fight against the University of Manitoba Bison will begin same time Sunday, with both games being held at Foote Field.





FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**ALMOST AS BAD AS PUNCHING A BABY** The way Alberta is playing, striker Alex Campos (9) probably scored here.

## Bears riding offensive wave

**After failing to notch more than one goal in each of their first four games, the Bears soccer team has found its scoring touch and leads the conference in goals**

NICK FROST  
Sports Staff

When it comes to putting the ball in the back of the net, the 2006/07 Golden Bears soccer team is right up there with the best of them. With no less than two goals in six consecutive matches, the Bears currently sit tied for first place in Canada West in goals scored with 19, eight of which have come from Junior Castrillion-Rendon to lead the conference.

Things haven't always been this rosy, though—in fact, the Bears scored more goals this past weekend against Calgary and Lethbridge (5), than they did in the first four games combined. This squad has already had to readjust their image from the beginning of the year, in order to become the goal-scoring machines they are today. Castrillion-Rendon leads the league in goals and is tied in points with nine, and John Konye has six points, good for third in the conference.

"In the early days we had a tremendous problem scoring goals," Bears head coach Len Vickery admitted. "We had to look at where our goals might come from, and try and organize ourselves so that those people that had the potential to score goals—be it a John Konye, a Junior Castrillion-Rendon, or a Mark

Korthuis—had every opportunity to do so."

However, the team that Alberta (7-0-3) is currently tied with atop the goals scored column is the same team that they will take to the field against this Saturday at home: the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds (6-1-3).

"It'll be good to see UBC this week," Vickery said. "Given the two tough games last weekend, it's good preparation for what we can expect this weekend. UBC are only three points behind us, so they'll be looking to take those three points away from us on Saturday."

Those three points—which equate to one win—are vital, however, in the home stretch, and will likely be the determining factor as to which of these teams finishes atop the Canada West standings.

"They're going to be hungry this weekend; this is their biggest game of the season," Vickery explained. "They know that they need to regain those three points to give themselves a chance to finish first in the Canada West conference. If we can overcome that, and gain those three points, it will go a long way towards helping us secure first place."

Sunday's matchup pits Alberta against the Victoria Vikes (3-5-2). While Saturday's match carries bigger

implications for the two teams involved, Sunday's battle is still one that Alberta can't afford to lose at this point in the season.

"Victoria is always a challenge; they're usually very well organized, very fit and very strong," Vickery said, reiterating the difficulties of playing in the country's toughest athletic conference.

With the potential of finishing first in Canada West and having a solid position going into the CIS Championships, the Bears believe that their focus must solely be fixated on the upcoming game—a philosophy that has been preached since day one of training camp.

"We started, in the early days, to put the CIS Championships out of our mind. We don't want to be going into a national championship as a lame duck host; we want to be going in as the Canada West Champions. Even if we're not quite the champion, we need to be contending; we need to be taking each game as it presents itself to better prepare ourselves for the CIS national championships, which becomes sudden death—you lose a game and you're out of the championships."

The Bears hit the pitch at Foote Field on both days at 2:15pm, squaring off against UBC on Saturday and Victoria on Sunday.



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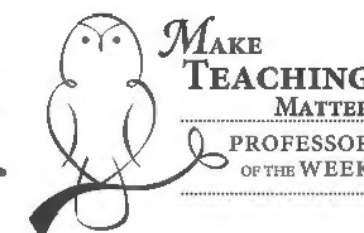
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# Puck Pandas face 'Horns in search of scoring depth

Alberta is scoring in bunches, but the points are all coming from the same four players: Barry, Barber, Podloski and McAlpine

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

Heading into the third week of the Pandas hockey season, things appear to already be in top form for head coach Howie Draper's defending National Champions. They've dismantled conference rivals Regina and UBC by a combined score of 24-3, goaltender Holly Tarleton has posted a pair of shutouts in her two starts and third-year forward Jenna Barber notched six points against the Cougars to earn CIS Female Athlete of the Week honours.

However, after the offensive three-headed monster of Barber, Lindsay McAlpine and Tarin Podloski, Alberta lacks considerable scoring depth. In nine exhibition and regular season games, the Pandas have managed an astonishing 41 goals—roughly 4.5 goals per game—easily the highest number in Canada West. Yet, of those 41 goals, 25 have been scored by the trio and six of the remaining 16 belong to fifth-year forward Taryn Barry. With four players accounting for 75 per cent of the offence, the Pandas versatility has to come into question, but Draper isn't worried.

"I don't think there is a concern [for scoring depth]," he said. "I think that we have been fortunate enough to put our top offensive weapons on the top line and dared the other team to try and stop us; so far we've been pretty successful."

But, if the Pandas were capable of getting production from their other lines that support would be very beneficial in close games—in one-goal games this season, the mighty Pandas



FILEPHOTO: NEAL WILDING

**TEN BUCKS SAYS SHE SCORED** Tarin Podloski (81) is leading Canada West in scoring and is much better than me.

are a mediocre 1-1-1.

"Depth certainly helps you get through those tough situations," Draper admitted, adding that depth has been a strength of past Alberta teams. "It's important to have all four lines contributing because you always want to have more depth than the other team, so you can role over your lines and wear down the opponent. Traditionally we have been effective at doing that and I think this year we have more depth to accomplish that."

One of the untapped resources that awaits in the Pandas' wings has to be the four rookie forwards on the roster.

Wingers Patricia Tulloch, Lindsie Fairfield and Taryn Cornelssen, and centre Leah Copeland have managed just a single goal between them, which came from Copeland in the 5-0 rout of Regina. If the Pandas are to find additional scoring, it should come from the youngsters.

"Both Tulloch and Copeland have amazing potential, and we will be looking for them to grow and learn with the special teams opportunities we are looking to give them," Draper said. "I am quite confident they will start bulging the twine in the near future."

With the winless Lethbridge

Pronghorns skating their way into Clare Drake Arena for a two-game set this weekend, finding outlets for offensive production may not be an immediate concern, but it remains something Draper and the Pandas will have to address in the post-season.

"With those three closer games, it was very early in the season. Come playoff time we're going to know our strengths as a team better," Copeland explained. "The scoring will come from all over, we just have to be patient and wait for it."

The puck drops at 7pm on both Friday and Saturday night.

## THE FAB FOUR

### Jenna Barber

- Fourth-year Arts student from Saskatoon.
- MVP of 2005/06 CIS final game where she scored the gold-medal winning goal.
- Third in conference scoring with five goals and three assists in four games.

### Taryn Barry

- Fourth-year Phys Ed & Rec student from Edmonton.
- Scored series-winning goal in the 2005/06 Canada West final.
- Tied for fifth in conference scoring with five goals.

### Lindsay McAlpine

- Fourth-year Education student from Edmonton.
- Scored short-handed to open the scoring in the 2005/06 CIS semi-final.
- Second in conference scoring with five goals and six assists.

### Tarin Podloski

- Third-year Ag/For student from Edmonton.
- Member of Canadian U-22
- Conference scoring leader with five goals and seven assists.

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# Esk's' woeful season good for fans

Fret not Eskimos faithful, for there's an upside to your team's utter downfall



ANDREW  
RENFREE

Sports  
Commentary

Most Canadians remember the fall of 1972 quite clearly. It was the year Canada was cemented as the greatest hockey country in the world when a team of NHL stars beat the Soviet Union in the Summit Series. For Edmontonians however, the fall of 1972 had additional significance: it marked the first of 34 consecutive years that the Edmonton Eskimos made the CFL playoffs—a record unsurpassed in any other North American professional sport.

During that span, the Esk's appeared in half of the Grey Cup Championship games (17), ten of which resulted in victories. There have been many parades and celebrations during those years, but after three and a half decades of waltzing into the playoffs, the 2006 edition of the Edmonton Eskimos will be watching the post-season from their couches for the first time since Nixon was president.

It's been an agonizing season for Esk's' fans, watching the team tumble from Grey Cup glory to the cellar of the CFL. As hard as it is to admit, this grotesque season may actually be a good thing for the Eskimos, their fans and the league. Don't get me wrong, I loathe hearing constant reminders from fans of other teams,

especially Calgary, that the Eskimos will be on the outside of the playoffs looking in this year. However, there are benefits from the demise of this impressive playoff streak. I was at Commonwealth Stadium on 20 July when Milt Stegall ran for a 100-yard touchdown on the last play of the game to give Winnipeg the win. Believe me, that was about as enjoyable as watching a *Jackass* film. But despite the tribulations the Eskimos have caused, this abysmal season will serve to teach some lessons to the Edmonton faithful.

**As hard as it is to admit, this grotesque season may actually be a good thing for the Eskimos, their fans and the league.**

First, it's now becoming clear who's a true fan and who was simply enjoying the successes of the last 34 years. It's easy to cheer for a perennial championship contender, but it's another thing to cheer for the second-worst team in the league. If the Eskimos lose some casual fans who just stick around when times are good, it really doesn't harm the organization. The core fans are more likely to purchase merchandise, own season tickets and pass on the enjoyment of the game to family members who will become the future fans.

Second, and more importantly,

Esk's' fans are becoming complacent as we watch the regular season with limited interest, knowing that the Green and Gold will make the playoffs, even if they have a mediocre season. We've now know what Roughrider fans go through every year: an up and down season that leaves them on the brink of a playoff appearance at year end. By being humbled this season, Esk's' fans might begin to appreciate the game a bit more.

Compare the revelry during the Oilers' playoff run to the celebrations after the Esk's won the Grey Cup last year. It had been so long since the Oilers saw post-season success that fans were ecstatic to the point of insanity—nobody really knew how to celebrate without acting like drunken idiots. On the other hand, when the Esk's won the Grey Cup last year the attitude in Edmonton was a nonchalant, "Good job boys, way to win another Cup." People were happy, but not soil-their-pants happy. Maybe a few bad seasons for the Eskimos would help fans realize that athletic success is very difficult to achieve and championships should be valued.

Eskimo fans must admit that the best league is one where a new team wins each year, and teams can go from bad to worse in a couple of seasons. With the apparent end of the Eskimos play-off streak this season, it only benefits the other teams and won't kill the Esk's faithful either. As the cliché goes, it'll only make us stronger—or at least it'll make us anticipate 2007 a little more in the hope that the Esk's can turn down the suck.

## SPORTS SHORTS

by Paul Owen

### Pandas Basketball

After starting the pre-season 0-3, the Pandas will host Memorial University, Concordia University and the University of Victoria in the annual Pandas Hoopfest.

"This is going to be a good amount of quality basketball," Pandas rookie head coach Scott Edwards said. "It's another set of games for us to learn how to play together."

The team will be heavily relying on the six third-years who were brought in two years ago to turn Alberta around.

"[We're expecting] big things from those third-years. They need to set the tone for our young group—we have another big group of freshmen this year and they need to learn how to play Canada West basketball," he said. "It's going to come from those third years to show them."

The Pandas take on UVic Friday night and Memorial Saturday, both at 8pm. They face Concordia Sunday at 1pm in the Main Gym.

### Bears Basketball

The male Alberta basketballers will head to southern Ontario for a trio of games this weekend. They'll kick it off in the House That Sheila Built, Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, against the McMaster Marauders Thursday at noon. They will follow that up against the University of Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday at 2pm and the York Lion on Sunday at 2pm.

### Pandas Rugby

The Pandas will be in search of their eighth

straight Canada West title—maintaining their all-time undefeated conference record in the process—in Lethbridge this weekend. The Pandas will face the other three Canada West teams: Victoria, UBC and Lethbridge, their biggest rivals. The Pandas downed the Pronghorns 10-3 in the final last year and won silver at the CIS championships.

### Bears Volleyball

Fresh off a 4-0 showing at their own Can-Am tournament, the Bears head to the University of Manitoba for their final pre-season tune-up this weekend. They'll take on the Dalhousie Tigers Thursday at 5pm and the Ryerson Rams Friday at 3:45pm. Saturday will mark the end of exhibition play with a pair of games against Manitoba at 10am and Winnipeg at 3:45pm. Reports that Manitobans don't know how to schedule an event are thus far unproven, but seriously, who schedules a game at a quarter to? They should learn from the U of A and realize that just because you schedule a game at 6pm (or 8pm) doesn't mean it has to start on time. The athletics department has been getting away with that one for years.

### Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas continue their proud tradition of playing all their pre-season games on the road so we never have an actual opportunity to write a game story about them, instead relagating them to Sports Shorts every week. This weekend they'll take on Calgary, Trinity Western, Manitoba and a yet unnamed opponent in the U of C's tournament. The big news here will be next week when they start their season at home against Brandon.

### Bears Hockey

Were this a past year, domination would be imminent as the Bears take on UBC

on the road. About the only thing in doubt heading into the weekend would be where the T-Birds would host the game since their arena is being torn apart to be replaced with a brand new Olympic-sized one. That said, this year's Bears aren't as dominant as they once were, as evidenced by a home loss to Calgary last weekend, and this year's version of the Thunderbirds (2-2) seems less severely bad than previous incarnations of the team. Also, the games are going at Whistler Arena. Poor UBC has to play 28 road games this year.

### Fantasy Hockey

After beating up on that Igor Ulanov-loving, mouth-breathing old-man fucker, Heather Smith, I executed a trade with A&E Editor Amanda Ash in the *Gateway's* hockey pool, acquiring Dany Heatley and Alex Tanguay for Brian Gionta, Mike Sillinger and Phil Kessel. Deputy News Editor Scott "Quaking in his booties" Lilwall will be the next to feel the pain that can only be brought by my fearsome team. Yes, I'm only in fifth, but that's because of Yahoo! error, not virtual-GM error.

### Shorts

Only two editors are rocking the boxer-shorts this week: Lilwall and myself. The four other guys in the office are wearing restrictive boxer-briefs. Chloé and Natalie are both wearing bi-coloured "boy-shorts," while Amanda is sporting full-bum panties and Krystina is wearing Sunday's underwear on Wednesday. Apparently she can't read. Lisa is supporting her band by wearing specially made underwear with the word box spelled backwards on the front and Pangina scrawled on the back. I never thought when I started the underwear poll it would result in someone pulling their pants down in the office. I was wrong.

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EVERYDAY OSAMA by Iris Tse & Chris O’Leary

Everyday Osama



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EWE OF A by Norman Lau

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I DON'T KNOW. BEING A FICTIONAL, ANTHROPOMORPHIC SHEEP DOESN'T LEND ITSELF TO MUCH SELF-REFLECTION. WHY?


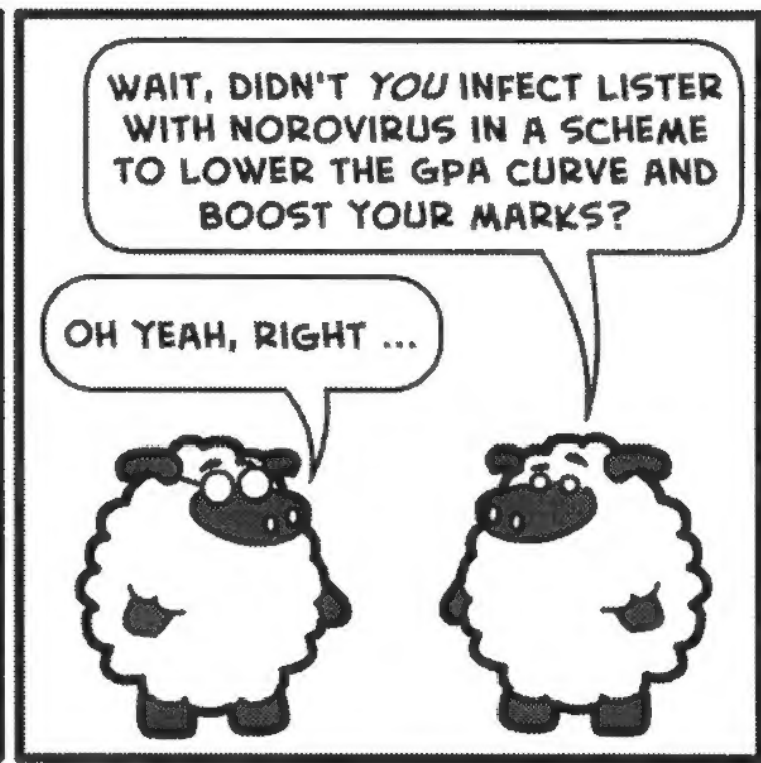
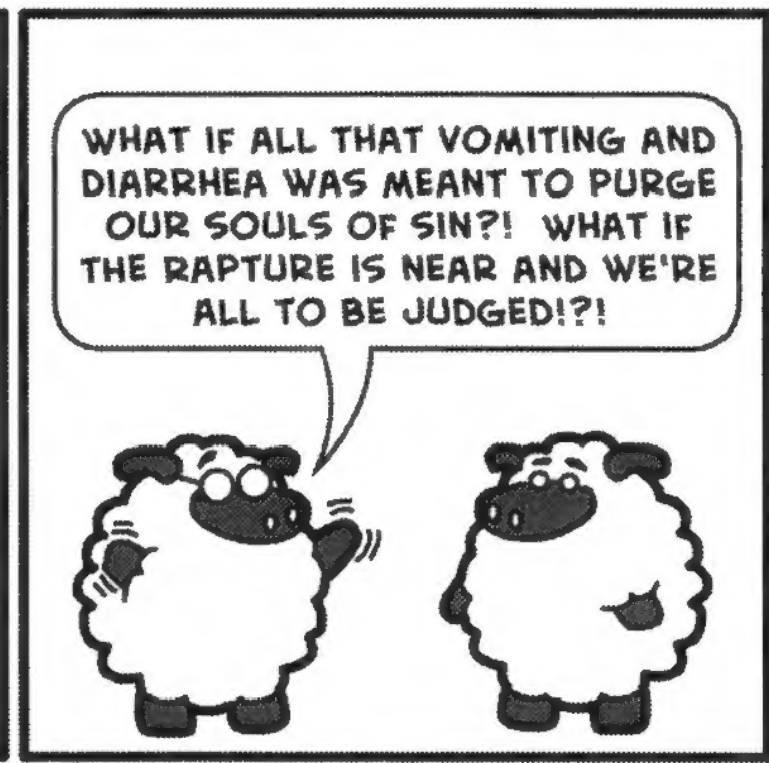
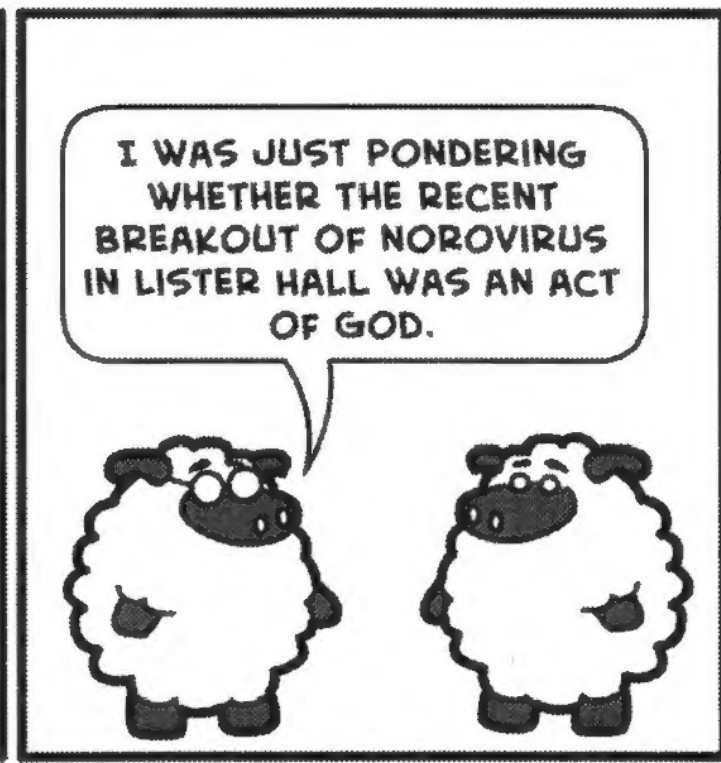
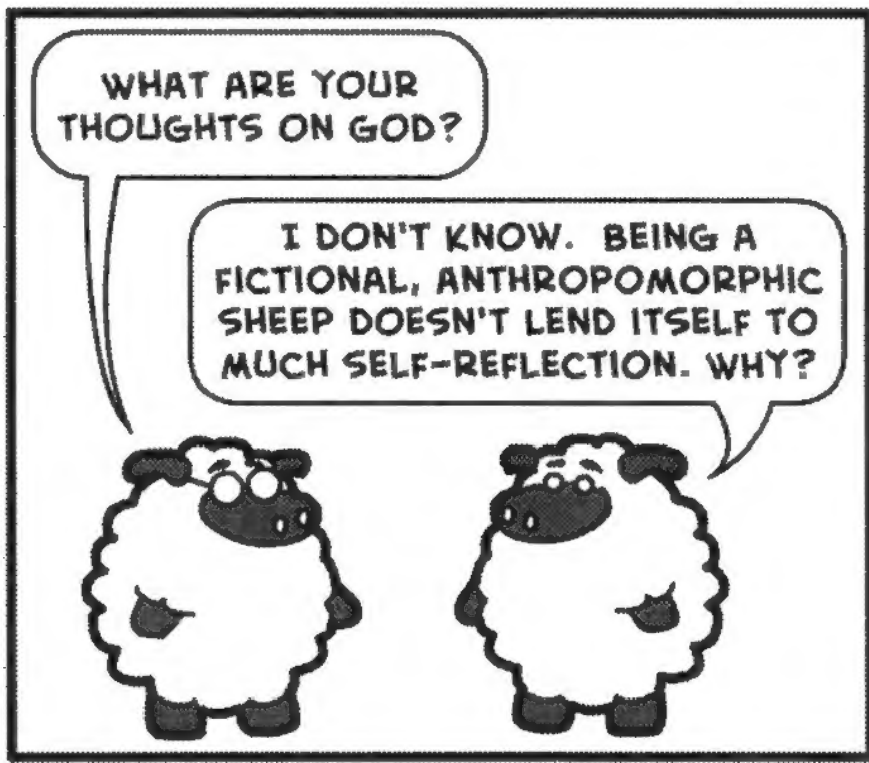
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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 13 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 19 october, 2006

## Grant MacEwan changing by degrees



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

With Grant MacEwan College (GMC) able to grant four-year degrees, students who previously would have transferred in their third-year of study to the University of Alberta now have more options.

Last fall, GMC became the first public college in Alberta to be awarded degree-granting status by the provincial government. Because of this, students studying towards a Bachelor of Arts at GMC are now able to major in anthropology, economics, English, history, philosophy, political science, psychology or sociology without having to transfer to the U of A. They have also begun enrolling people in a new four-year bachelor of child and youth care degree program that was introduced to complement existing diploma programs being offered at the college.

However, according to U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, it remains to be seen whether there will in fact be a significant reduction of transfer students coming to the U of A.

"We've had a couple very very preliminary discussions with the Ministry [of Advanced Education] ... [and] we will maintain our overall enrollment in the Faculty of Arts and increase it if that's what the government wants us to do," Amrhein said. "The mix may change, but I think it's too early to see that we might in fact have a reduction of transfer students."

GMC Dean of Arts and Science Dave Higgins described the atmosphere at the College as being a major attractant to students who previously would have left for the U of A and he affirmed that GMC was committed to maintaining its smaller community environment.

"The size of the classroom [at GMC] allows a much more interactive experience between students and instructors. It allows plenty of

enrichment opportunities for students with instructors in a context that is more personal in a sense," Higgins said.

"The model that we've developed in the proposal [to the Campus Alberta Quality Council] is ... to maintain the class sizes at the existing comfortable small environment size—that's integral to the proposal itself so we don't have any plans nor anticipate changing or increasing class sizes," Higgins stated.

**"The mix may change, but I think it's too early to see that we might in fact have a reduction of transfer students."**

**CARL AMRHEIN,  
U OF A PROVOST AND VICE  
PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)**

But Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf noted the U of A has the benefit of being a research institution and said quality of education cannot always be determined by class sizes.

"We're putting a great deal of effort across the University into teaching initiatives, recognizing that the argument about the smaller, more intimate classes are often made in connection with the colleges," Woolf said. "I would also point out that we have some really remarkable teachers in large classes and a graduate program that supports tutorial or breakout sessions in many of those large classes."

"It's not quite as simple as the large class, small class economy that we're often hearing about."

Woolf also said the Faculty of Arts is preparing to try and enlarge its undergraduate pool by re-evaluating admission requirements.

PLEASE SEE **MACEWAN** ♦ PAGE 4

**TICK-TOCK** The waiting game is over for students who wanted the option of receiving four-year degrees from Grant Mac.

KIMSMITH

## Both sexes tell big ones in the bedroom

ROBIN COLLUM  
News Staff

If you have ever found yourself skeptical of the answer a new boyfriend or girlfriend gave when you asked them how many sexual partners they've had, imagine how a telephone surveyor must feel asking the same question.

Researchers have long known that self-reported data on this subject is unreliable, and it has caused problems for scientists studying it. What little information that has been gleaned suggests that men tend to give figures that are too high, and women tend to under-report "their number."

However, research by cognitive psychologist Dr Norman Brown at the University of Alberta, gives some idea as to the reasons for these discrepancies. He has done work on how people come up with numbers, and applied his expertise to the problem sex researchers were previously having.

"In surveys, it's common to find that the average estimate that men give when asked about their opposite-sex partners is 2-3 times larger than the average estimate that the women give," Dr Brown explained. "This is a problem because it undermines the credibility of self-reports."

Dr Brown's research indicates that women are more likely to count their

sexual partners, a method that tends to produce underestimation, while men are more apt to simply guess, which leads to an inflated figure.

"There are a couple of ways that people come up with numbers, and they each have their own biases," Dr Brown said. "If you were to just count up your boyfriends, you'd say, 'There was Bill, and there was John, and Sam and Joe, and that other guy,' which is enumeration."

This technique is known to produce low numbers, in contrast to the method which Brown found men more likely to use, rough approximation.

PLEASE SEE **SEX TALK** ♦ PAGE 3

## Finish line now in sight for U-Pass referendum

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

A motion passed by Students' Council Tuesday night has set the framework for a referendum question on a Universal Transit Pass.

The motion, brought forward by Students' Union Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, would ask students to approve a U-Pass that allowing undergraduate students at the University of Alberta unlimited access to the Edmonton, Strathcona and St Albert transit

systems. According to the referendum question, the pass would be funded by a mandatory \$75 per semester fee. Cournoyer explained that the price of the U-Pass would be much lower than what bus passes now cost students, and that the number was reached with help from both the University and area transit authorities.

"The University has committed to funding \$15 per student, on top of the \$30 per student that the [cities are] contributing into the program," Cournoyer explained.

PLEASE SEE **U-PASS** ♦ PAGE 3

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### On the road again

The Elected's Blake Sennett has a lot of projects on the go. Ryan Heise finds out what his latest adventure is.

**A&E, PAGE 8**



### The sound of silence?

Libraries should be a quiet place of study. Maria Kotovych makes the rounds to see who's breaking the rules.

**FEATURE, PAGE 11**

### Sigh, mid-terms ...

The *Gateway* won't be making an appearance on Tuesday, as we'll all be drinking coffee and praying we don't fail. But we'll be back like butter on Thursday, 26 October with more soy-based, inky goodness.





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## THE GATEWAY

thursday, 19 october, 2006  
volume XCVII number 13

Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 12 000  
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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## contributors

Ross: One of these things is not like the other. Prasad Askari, Mara Koto, John Lauren Stegitz, Ryan Heise, John Kmeck, Dane Kaszor, Jaskaran Singh, Lachna Desai, and Andre A. Renfree. Tre, or Phil: Nick Frost, Veronica Doeman, Victor Argas, Keisey Tanas, Cona Perse, Michael Smith, Dustin Loomes, Leonard Nemo, Iris Lee, Chris O'Leary, Norman Law, Ernie Fenix, and Nea. A: Qing Tara Stegitz, Kim Smith, and Andre R. Rak. Scott Jennings and Saneed Meran.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## WORLD POVERTY DAY

On Tuesday, 17 October 2006, students gathered at the University of Alberta to mark World Poverty Day, the concluding event to the month-long campaign called *Make Poverty History*.

Participants showed their solidarity by wearing a white band, the symbol that the coalition adopted to mark the fight against poverty. University events included wrapping the ART station in a white band, staging a radical theatre demonstration, and setting up displays in the Quad area. Students' Union President Samantha Power took part in the activities, which were organized by Student Groups for Social Justice.

Started on 16 September in the United Kingdom, *Make Poverty History* is to date the largest international campaign to eradicate poverty. Across the world, the event was organized by a coalition called Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), which is comprised of organizations from over 80 countries.

The month-long campaign worked to bring awareness to global issues such as HIV/AIDS, inequality, health care and education. The movement also aimed to lobby governments, especially those in wealthy nations, to uphold their promises to commit foreign aid.

Jessica Warren, co-chair of the Edmonton Chapter of Oxfam Canada, said that *World Poverty Day* is very relevant for Canadians. She believes that countries in the West must do more to



SUPPLIED

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** Students try to bring greater awareness to poverty Tuesday with demonstration around campus.

reduce poverty by crafting trade policies that are fairer to the rest of the world.

"Make Poverty History is as much about Canada and other rich countries as it is about the poorer countries," Warren commented. "Canada perpetuates poverty with our unfair trade practices and overly protectionist position in Free Trade Agreements reached through the WTO. Canada is responsible for the choices it makes on the world scene, and to the people in other countries, and our own, who are affected by them."

Michael Liu, News Staff

## U OF A BUSINESS SCHOOL EXPANDS

The University of Alberta Business School has opened an office in the Chinese province of Shenzhen that will

offer professional development opportunities for its citizens, in an attempt to create long-term economic contacts.

The province of Shenzhen will be host to the new office, opened on 10 October 2006, which will initially provide programs that are focused on practical applications and professional development, especially in the fields of project management and supply-chain management, as well as consider offering a Master of Business Administration program.

By opening the office, the Business School hopes to demonstrate the type of skills they can provide to the Chinese business community while creating revenue for the University. They also hope for long-term relationship to develop with the Chinese students in the professional

development program, so that they will have contacts in the future with potential high-ranking officials. The University will support this endeavor by working closely with the Chinese National School of Administration—which provides upgrading for government officials—as well as the government of Shanghai on the issues of change management. This approach is borrowed from American universities, which have had success in linking education with economic ties.

The office is currently staffed by a permanent, non-academic employee, as well as professors from the Edmonton campus and specially recruited Alberta business people that will rotate through the facility according to specific programs.

Ramin Ostad, News Staff

## STREETERS

This year, UNICEF Canada called it quits on the annual Halloween penny drive, in favour of other fundraising efforts.

What are your thoughts on the end of this fundraiser?



Kyla McCarthy  
Arts II



Nikki Uhryn  
Arts I



Stephen Dwyer  
Engineering I



Sheldon Thieson  
Arts II

That's not good, really. I mean, UNICEF is so awesome, and they use [the money] for so many different things. They generate so much from that, don't they? I mean, it's just horrible. Halloween is a great time to do it, the schools give [the boxes] out, and people expect it, right?

I kind of think it's silly. I remember I used to wear one for Halloween. I think it's stupid because people in the Third World need money. They need aid.

I think [the penny drive] is a good idea. The change just lies around [and isn't] worth much. They make use of it in a good way—it's a good way for people to get involved without having to do a lot.

Personally, I feel that it should continue, because every year my family and I constantly have piles of dimes, of change we find around the house. We're always ready to give it to UNICEF. I just feel that it should continue.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Mike Otto



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KIMSMITH

**THE TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGING** Grant MacEwan is Alberta's first college to be awarded degree granting status.

## U of A Provost welcomes competition

MACEWAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're looking fairly closely right now at the admission requirements for Arts, which haven't really been revised or looked at seriously in quite a long time, just to make sure that we are encouraging the widest possible pool of qualified applicants and not putting anybody off unnecessarily," Woolf explained.

However, Higgins highlighted the fact that it's ultimately up to students to decide which of the city's degree granting institution is most attractive and he affirmed that while the GMC

degree is new, it has the ability to provide a quality education for those who choose it.

"Obviously the choice at the end of the day is very much the student's," Higgins said. "It's for students to make that decision about the degree they want to take and we're confident that the kind of experience that students have here and the kind of education that we can give them."

Amrhein pointed out that so long as demand in Alberta's postsecondary system outstrips supply, the introduction of a new degree-granting

institution would only be a positive for the province.

"Even with the addition of Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal we still don't have enough [bachelor program] spaces. We still collectively are turning away students that should have a seat somewhere in the system," Amrhein said. "My overall view is that adding baccalaureate spaces in Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal is a good thing. Because it expands capacity, it's also a good thing in that it will provide some competition for the U of A and the U of C and the U of L," Amrhein said.

## COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 31 October.

### QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period opened with an inquiry on what, if anything, was being done about the state of the wireless internet access in the Students' Union Building, after many students have complained of spotty service. Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry stated that there was an investigation in progress on the issue, and noted that the microwaves in the eating areas were partially to blame. She said more information would be available when the investigation was completed.

Chris Cunningham, VP (Operations

and Finance), was asked about whether SU-run businesses are taking necessary measures regarding the proper handling of food and cleaning in the wake of concerns about viruses and food safety. Cunningham explained that, while no new measures have been put in place, businesses run by the SU are very careful to follow proper health measures.

Finally, the exec was asked about plans to prompt the provincial government to release its long-awaited tuition policy. VP (External) Dave Cournoyer explained that dealings on the policy were at a standstill, which he attributed to the current leadership race within the Conservative party. He said that SU's plan was to wait until after a leader was picked before expecting progress on the policy.

### REPORT ON COCA-COLA CONTRACT

After Question Period, Council moved on to vote on a motion that would order a report to investigate options other than the current deal with Coca-Cola and their beverages monopoly on campus. Supporters of the bill argued that, as a third-party to the agreement, the SU had

the right to investigate other options. As well, some felt that it would be hypocritical to denounce the recent renewal of the contract that the University has with Aramark without taking a close look at the Coca-Cola deal. Some felt that the report was unnecessary and that other options were less lucrative than with Coca-Cola. In the end, the motion was passed with an amendment requiring the report to be completed before 5 December.

### HEADS OR TAILS

Finally, the last act of Council was to appoint a new member to the Budget Finance Committee. With three nominated candidates, the first vote ended in a tie for first between two councillors. Another vote was made with just those two candidates, which also ended in a dead tie. According to Students' Council tradition, the final decision was made by the toss of a coin, with the win going to Joseph Blais.

### U-PASS REFERENDUM QUESTION

See story page one.

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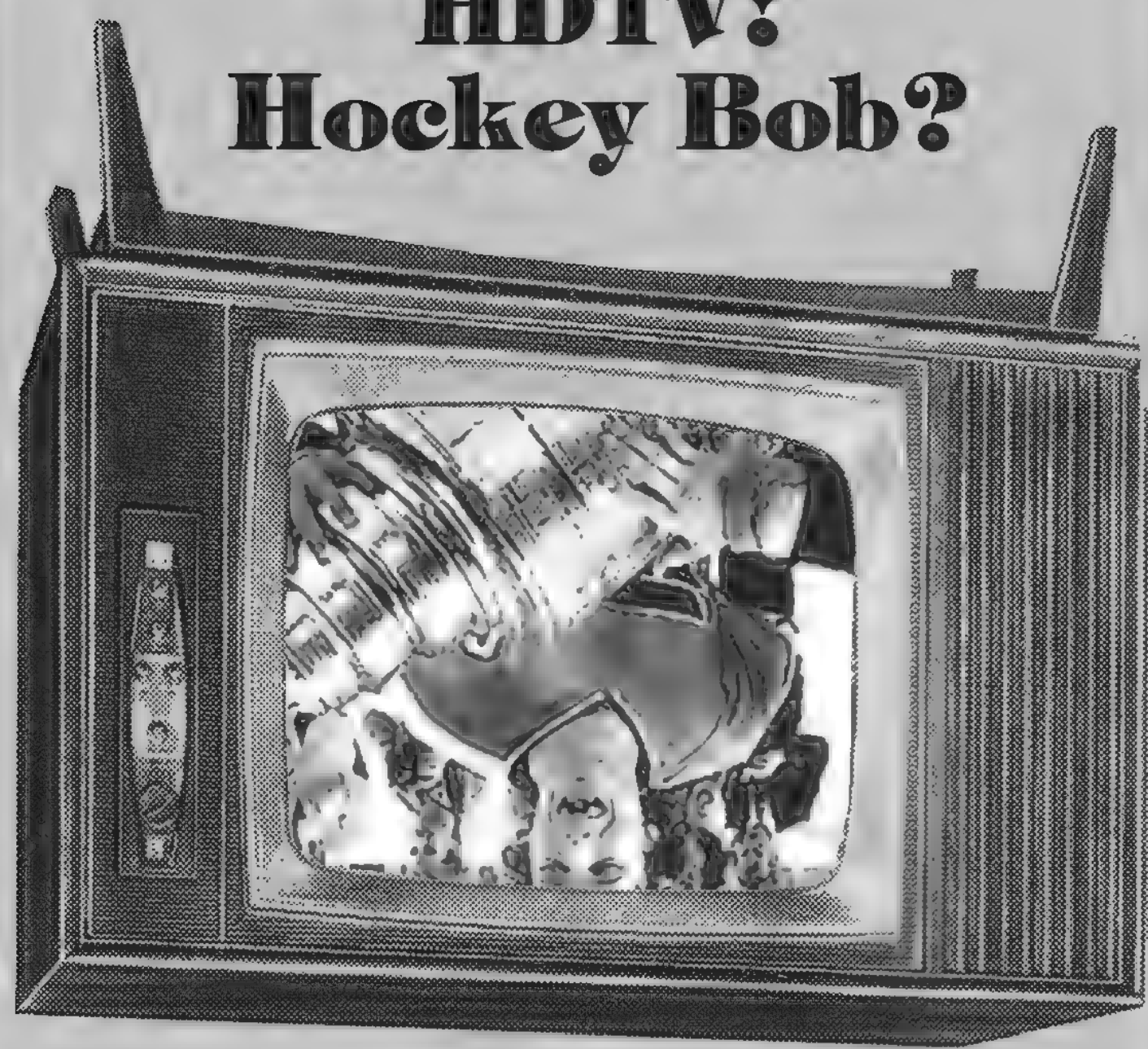
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FACT:

Some believe time to be cyclical, with the end of an event flowing smoothly into its beginning.

FACT:

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## Trick or treat— or \$20, bitch

WE'VE ALL HEARD THE DANGERS OF TRICK-OR-treating on Halloween, such as the sadistic neighbours who poison candy and insert razor blades into apples. This has prompted paranoid parents to breathe down their children's necks as they head door to door, cutting the costume promenade short to return to the safe confines of their home and meticulously inspecting the goodies for any sign of tampering. But these fears of adulterated candies and apples are overwhelmingly unsubstantiated, the few true cases being linked to murderous parents or family members—not the stranger down the way. Still, parents continue to harbour these suspicions and find new ones to boot. The latest target: UNICEF's annual Halloween penny drive.

"Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" was born in 1950, when a few Philadelphia kids and their pastor brought empty milk cartons along during their Halloween journey to collect coins in addition to candy. More important than the \$17 they collected that night was the tradition that grew out of it, and UNICEF's campaign has collected hundreds of millions since then, proving that a few coins can go a long way. But parental concern about children carrying loose change in the dark night have resulted in the demise of the familiar orange boxes, as UNICEF Canada has replaced the campaign this year with a month-long fundraising affair, leaving kids to raise money at school and at home throughout October.

But as much as it's important to raise children to be active citizens and aware of those less fortunate around the world, asking them to each raise \$20 on their own is a big undertaking for a kid—especially when the expectation is coming directly from school, so not keeping up will cause a frown from teachers and classmates. Those who can't think up creative ways to keep up with the other kids in their class will just fall to their relatives for help—and asking your rich uncle for \$20 for the poor kids should not be a demand placed on any elementary school kid. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with fundraising or getting kids involved in doing it (unless you're Joe Volpe and the sum they give you is \$5400), but giving children the *responsibility* to do it, based on previous successes from the UNICEF campaign, gives them unnecessary stress in an age when kids are already growing up too fast.

The simplicity of picking up coins along with candy on Halloween night raised awareness not only for the trick-or-treating children but also for the people whose houses they knocked at, reminding the community at large about rampant poverty in many areas of the world. But more importantly, it showed kids how easy it is to make a difference—even while having fun. Parents should be sheltering their children when it really matters, and not by crushing a 55-year history of collecting coins for the poor.

CHLOÉ FEDIO  
Managing Editor

## A disgraceful Act

IT'S A DARK DAY FOR FREEDOM IN AMERICA, MR Bush. Contrary to what you might think, allowing your government to torture suspected terrorists with impunity in the name of national security is not what the founding fathers had in mind. Signed into law yesterday, the Military Commissions Act will allow the Bush Administration and the CIA to question terrorist suspects—notably those held in Guantanamo Bay and other secret American prisons—without fear of censure under the Geneva Conventions. It also assures that Bush et al will not be held accountable under the US War Crimes Act.

At base, this new act means the courts will turn a blind eye to illegal torture and coercion, all in the name of freedom, security, and the American Way. Never mind the lack of due process, dissolution of individual rights or assured anti-Islamism. As the farce concerning Maher Arar has shown Canada, lack of attention and excess of assumption can ruin a man's life. In a time when the US is steadfastly assaulting a slippery, ill-defined enemy, the call should be for prudence, not zealotry.

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief

## LETTERS

### Gateway editorial too mainstream

If I want to read an article that slanders Hugo Chávez, be it an editorial or a news piece—the two usually don't make a difference when it comes to reporting on Hugo Chávez—I would just pick up the *New York Times*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Financial Times*, etc (re: "Hugo not the boss of UN Council," 17 October). Basically, I'd just need to turn to the mainstream corporate-owned media.

However, to see the same type of Chávez-bashing editorial being printed at the *Gateway* is [that] it offers no new perspective on the issue. It is basically a summary of all opinions from the mainstream media. Just like any mainstream media, the focus is on Chávez's address to the UN assembly where he referred George Bush as "the devil" and how his speech has hurt him politically. Well, if you look at US influence in [the] UN, [then] even without his notorious speech, Chávez will find it really difficult to secure a seat at the UN security council.

The Bolivarian Revolution that is happening now in Venezuela takes socialist characteristics and it is a grassroots movement, and we all know how the US government feels about real grassroots democracy, especially the kind of democracy that is challenging US hegemony in Latin America.

Second of all, what disturbs me the most about Ms Climenhaga editorial is that it carries exactly the same tone as mainstream media in regard to its view on Hugo Chávez. If the *Gateway*, as a student newspaper, cannot even bring an alternative perspective in its content, then what is the purpose of the *Gateway*?

HARIYANTO DARMAWAN  
Alumnus

### Don't let dangerous offenders walk, Lilwall

Scott Lilwall seems to have been so carried away by his baseball metaphor that he has failed to correctly judge Prime Minister Stephen Harper's new measure that would put the onus on three-time offenders to prove that they should not be declared dangerous offenders (re: "Harper playing hardball," 17 October).

Violent crime is a very serious issue. While overall rates have been decreasing, they remain unacceptably high and the homicide rate has been rising over the past few years. Torontonians vividly remember the gunfire that broke out in their city's downtown in December that killed an innocent teenage girl. In January, a 17-year-old girl was murdered at a Montréal gas station where she worked. A similar incident occurred near Vancouver in March 2005 when a young man was murdered while chasing a motorist who had stolen twelve dollars' worth of gas. These are horrible events, but only represent a fraction of the violent crimes perpetrated in our society.

The author of this article dismisses most crimes as being committed in "the heat of passion." However, the individuals who committed these unspeakable crimes in the examples above present a grave danger to

## Bush responds to criticism over the Military Commissions Act



ADAM GAUMONT

society. Locking them up for longer periods ensures that they are kept behind bars and that they are unable to murder more people. It is not too much to demand that criminals who have committed three separate violent crimes spend more time behind bars. Besides, how many times does a violent repeat offender get to use the "heat of passion" excuse before they become a threat to society?

Furthermore, the proposed law does not violate the idea that someone should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. Someone convicted of three violent crimes has already been shown to be guilty of these crimes. Declaring that criminal to be a dangerous offender would simply be part of the punishment that comes with committing that third offence. Rather than violating our concept of justice, this measure flows from our belief that criminal acts should come with strict consequences.

It's about time that someone stands up for the innocent victims of crime. The proposed new law is about getting things done to protect Canadians from the crimes of repeat offenders. This one is a home run for Harper.

RENZE NAUTA  
Arts IV

### Step up to the plate with some solutions, Lilwall

Your baseball metaphor notwithstanding, why don't you offer a better solution to the problem of ongoing violent crimes, instead of

just whining when someone else actually tries to do something about it? Or at least cite your sources for the "debunked" approach that stiffer sentences will lower crime?

You make it sound as though you're satisfied with the status quo—that violent offenders should be given even more chances to ruin lives. As for the cost, you've totally ignored the cost of the crimes—both human and financial—in your calculations.

Since your approach is to complain without trying to help the situation, I imagine that you will be among the first to complain that the government isn't doing anything. It begs the question: why on earth are you given a platform to spout your ideas from, when you're contributing so little? Maybe we need a higher standard in journalism, as well as in the judicial system.

BOB ELLIS  
Via e-mail

### 'Illegals' doing America's dirty work

Judy McNeese's letter about Mexicans sneaking in and milking the US system dry is absurd (re: "Becoming Canadian as easy as putting 'eh' at the end of every sentence," 17 October). Most Mexicans who illegally cross into the United States end up working illegally, doing jobs which pay less than minimum wage to try to support their families back in Mexico. These are the guys washing dishes, unloading trucks, mowing people's lawns, or waiting by the

Home Depot in hopes of being hired by a contractor for labour work (doing the jobs that we fat, lazy Americans and Canadians don't do).

They have no ability to milk any systems such as health care (which would be difficult in the States anyway), because they have no citizenship and cannot gain easy access to most of these services. Furthermore, McNeese believes that all 12-30 million illegals should file their papers, pay their money, and wait. Anyone who has lived in Mexico knows the stupidity and naivety of this statement in contrast to the reality faced in the corrupt system. Unless you pay big (and that means paying all the middle men their "bonus" salaries), there is no way your papers are going to get processed. Most people who illegally cross the border are in search of jobs [that] will pay them enough to support their families, meaning they don't have the money to pay corrupt officials to begin with.

As for us trying to imagine millions of third-world immigrants in Alberta, there is a reason Canada is called a multicultural society. Let the Mexicans work in America. You probably need them to do your lawn work or shingle your roof while you sit and clog your arteries [at] McDonalds. And don't even think about coming to Alberta, we already have enough ignorant, upper-middle class conservatives here, thank you.

MICHAEL SNIDER  
Education IV

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 6





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# Look for Republicans to pass November mid-terms



VICTOR VARGAS

If history has taught us anything, it's that when a pedophile scandal aligns with an unpopular war and a sluggish economy, it will spell doom for the ruling party. But despite all the doom-sayers who claim that the end of Republican rule in America is within sight, don't get your hopes up. Because if the Republican Party has proven adept at one thing in the last eight years, it's their ability to spin.

Only a day after the Foley scandal broke back in September, the majority of the Republican Party and their minions were quick to respond with the message that "the Democrats may have withheld information that risked youngsters."

A week later, Republicans played the gay conspiracy card, claiming that Foley is proof that they must fight against gay rights (as Family Research Council president Tony Perkins put it, "The Foley scandal shows what happens when political correctness is put ahead of protecting children"). All the while, the Republicans had Fox News constantly running the headlines and going as far to "accidentally" mark Foley as a Democrat on television.

Democrat activity was rather benign over the last couple of weeks. They did

attack the Republicans over Foley and got some of their talking heads to go on the attack. Then things changed, and the Democrats began defending themselves from Republican allegations and trying to handle the Gay Conspiracy Voodoo Beam that was just launched. No doubt the scandal will affect the polls, but considering how well Republicans controlled the spin and how poorly the Democrats attacked, the Republicans will have lost little ground and nothing they can't retake in the coming weeks.

**What do the Democrats have? Ariana Huffington leading Pansy Division 1 and Al Gore heading up the Planetears.**

The Republicans are a well-oiled spin machine. They got guys like General Novak leading Army Group A and General Coulter in Army Group B. They have Fox News sending their message 24 hours a day and a legion of Religious Right followers fighting the max to make sure they retain power.

What do the Democrats have? Ariana Huffington leading Pansy Division 1 and Al Gore heading up the Planetears. Their main liberal media outlet is *The Daily Show*, and they have a legion of internet

bloggers who burn in sunlight. A fairer matchup would be the Terminator against an invalid child.

Even beyond the Foley scandal, Republicans are spinning other issues very well. Think Bush's low poll numbers will bring them down? Republicans are distancing themselves from him, and they have the voting record to prove it. The war and the economy? Republicans will retort that they're trying and that the Democrats don't have the answers either.

And they're right: the Democrats don't have sexy answers to America's problems. Cutting the deficit means raising taxes. Most experts agree that pulling out of Iraq will cause more problems in the future then staying the course.

As for fighting the war, Democrats have yet to provide a clear response on how it can be done better. The environment and emissions would require putting a burden on the nation's industry, which contradicts plans to boost the economy. The whole Democratic campaign can be boiled down to nothing more than a, "Sure, Republicans are really bad people, but we will do better—honest," followed by a wink and a nudge.

And that's why the Republicans are going to win. As was shown in the last American election, people will vote on vision and ideology rather than on the economy and track record. And until the Democrats actually have a media spin-machine devoid of ethics, everyone will be hearing the words "four more years" again and again.

## Don't pin your hopes on a stupid button



KELSEY TANASIUK

the man or his reign of power over our neighbours to the south. That's all fine and good; however, understand that the fact you have a button on your bag changes nothing.

Political change will not be initiated by one stylish poli-sci student with a button on his or her messenger bag. Wearing a political pin is the equivalent of shouting "Fuck Bush!" at a punk show. It's about joining in on the mob mentality and hopping on the trendy bandwagon of political awareness. No one in the States is going to change their right-wing stance because some smart-ass kid in Canada put a button on his bag.

Not only is it useless, but it's also an extremely negative sentiment. Instead of raising political awareness with educated argument (that would be too wordy for a pin I suppose) we're devoting our time to hating one specific individual. We're attaching a face to evil and turning "America needs to shave its Bush" into the catchphrase of our generation.

Instead of hating the neighbour we're stuck with for another two years, I personally feel that our time could be better spent. Why not look at some of the few good things he did? The Landmark Education Bill for instance. Or rather the things he didn't plan to screw up. Take for instance the fact that he didn't royally screw Canada over trade-wise like John Kerry had planned to if elected. No matter how evil you paint a politician, each one will always be considered somewhat evil; the question is, is there a lesser evil? Or can the grass can in fact be just as malnourished and flattened on both sides?

Wearing an anti-Bush button on your jacket is not going to change a vote from two years ago and it's not going to impeach anyone in the future. All it's going to do is say, "Hey guys! Look how politically aware I am, I hate Bush just like everyone else in my 2pm International Relations class!" If you want to create change, then do something about it. Don't just let your outrage become a fashion statement.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### Proponents of wall in a world of their own

I for one find it hard to imagine "millions of third world immigrants" invading Alberta. Maybe it's because the Mexicans that you referred to don't come from a third world country. (You share a border with Mexico and don't even know it isn't a third world country?) I can only assume from your e-mail that you aren't aware of the types of jobs that illegal immigrants are doing in your country. I assure you that they aren't

registered nurses trying to get jobs at hospitals like your daughter-in-law. They are doing the jobs that you and your fellow "patriots" don't want to do.

Imagine if you had to put American citizens in the jobs that illegal immigrants do now; you wouldn't be able to over-work and underpay them. You would have to actually provide them with social services. Bush may be an idiot but at least he listens to his economic advisors when they tell him that by kicking all of the illegal immigrants out of the country the "system" that you refer to would collapse. I mean if you didn't give them guest worker status then who would do

all the shitty jobs that American's don't want to do? You? Don't make me laugh.

DYLAN ZURAWELL  
Business II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.



# Talkin’ ’bout my nerd generation

Cool people are stealing nerd culture, and it’s time we politely asked for it back



MICHAEL SMITH

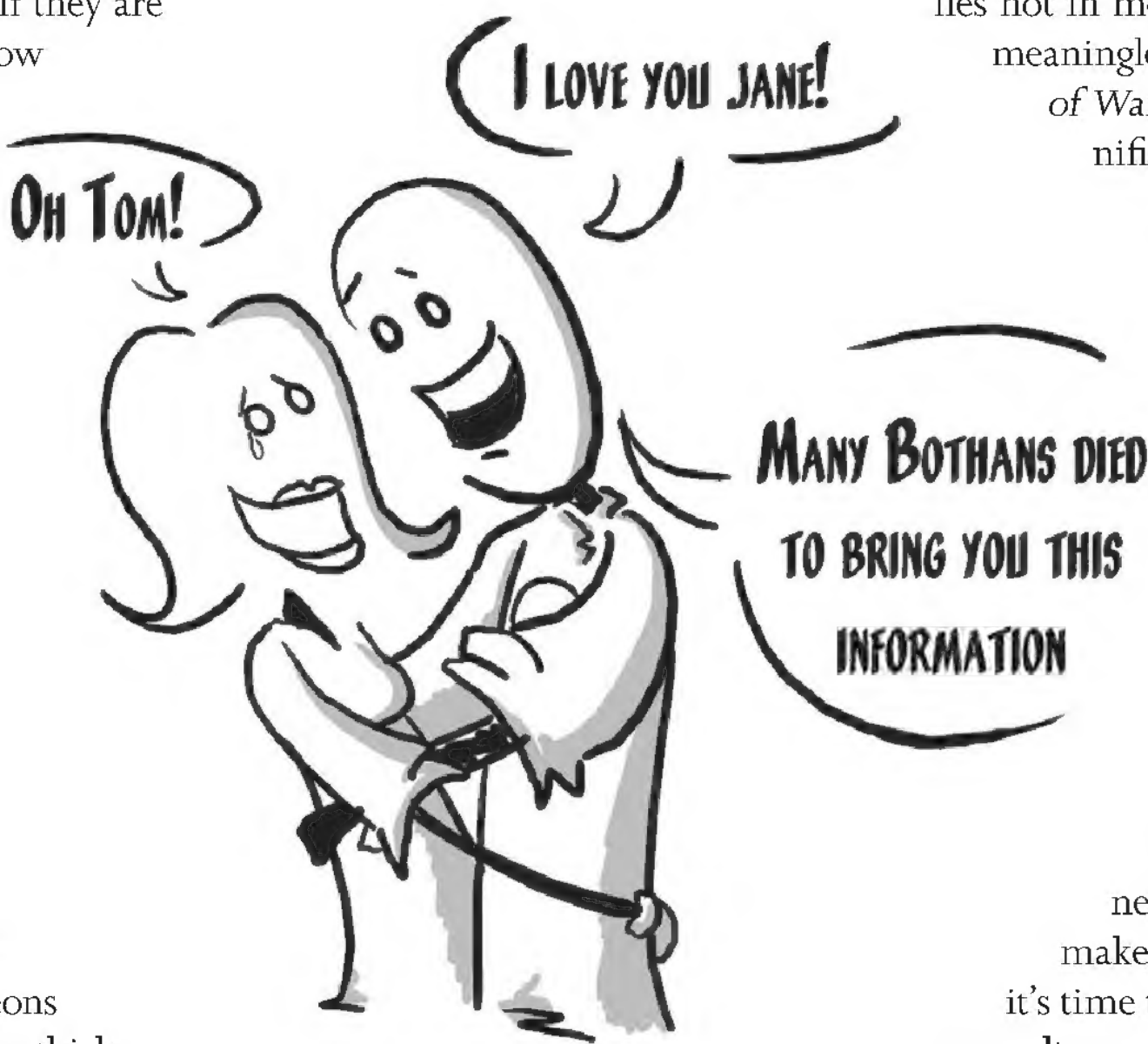
My fellow nerds, certain members of society are debasing those of our kind. You see them everywhere you go: they wear shirts that depict the heroes of our culture and act as if they are like one of us. They know nothing about the discrimination our forefathers endured, or the hardships they overcame. These fakers have appropriated our culture because it’s cool, never knowing what it truly means to be a nerd.

You see, for the last half-decade, video gaming and nerd-dom in general has become cooler and cooler. Bands of pretty boys sing about Dungeons and Dragons. Guys with thick-rimmed glasses are suddenly hot. Hell, being a skinny weakling whose likes include *Mario Kart* and twenty-sided dice is even considered cool. Although the fact that nerds like myself are suddenly hot commodities on the man-meat market doesn’t terribly upset me, the way others have appropriated and abused my nerd-culture is outrageous.

One example is the popularity of the “Talk Nerdy To Me” T-shirts that I see girls wearing all too often. What would

happen if I actually approached such a girl and began commenting on the poor continuity between the original *Star Trek* series and *Enterprise*? More than likely her eyes would glaze over, rendering her into a stupefied state that could only be cured by me mentioning how much I love Fall Out Boy.

This rise in nerd culture has resulted in better chances for nerds like myself in some ways, but others **have exploited it, creating a faux-nerd**



**group that appears to only have one goal in mind: to destroy the chances of real nerds like myself from getting the girls we truly want in the one time period in history when we’re considered hot commodities.**

I’m talking about the boys wearing “I-Up” mushroom shirts, or the guys that have never played D&D wearing a shirt proclaiming their love of the game. Although these faux-nerd

types fit perfectly well with faux-nerd girls, with so few real nerd girls they destroy our chances. This is because real nerds are shy around the opposite sex, and are terrible at actually seeking a romantic relationship.

This ends up going both ways, as faux-nerd guys pick up the real nerd girls and faux-nerd girls pick up the real nerd guys, screwing both sexes out of a more meaningful partner. Most of us are too busy thinking we’re happy to realize that true happiness lies not in meaningless sex—it lies in meaningless sex following a *World of Warcraft* raid with your significant other.

This new trend is slowly but surely destroying my culture. The erosion and absorption of nerd-dom is even encouraged by some among us, eagerly hoping they will be cool and finally fit in. As the traditional bastions of nerdiness become more a part of the everyday world, nerds are losing what makes us who we are. So I say it’s time to fight back and reclaim our culture.

You there, nerd boy! Tell your girlfriend who thinks it’s quaint that you like *Star Trek* that she can beam herself out of your life. Nerd girl, you need to start hitting on the boys at the comic shop, because for god’s sake, that guy you are dating may like *Halo*, but you need more than just energy-sword love! Fight on my friends. Enough D&D, poor hygiene, and Kirk vs Picard debates can make us uncool once more!

ILLUSTRATION: CONAL PIERSE

# I said, ‘turn down your headphones!’



DUSTIN LOOMES

Music lovers worldwide herald iPods as one of the greatest forces in the evolution of musical culture. However, they also have the potential to do a lot of damage as well.

I’m not picking on iPods in particular. Any device you shove into your ear canals and proceed to blast away is equally bad. However, the pervasiveness and popularity of the iPod makes it the most guilty. In the mecca of litigation that is the US, Apple is facing a lawsuit on the damaging potential of the iPod. A suit submitted to a San Jose federal court on behalf of a Louisiana man seeks class-action status and unspecified damages, and also demands that the volume on iPods be limited to 100 decibels.

In Europe, where they seem to be routinely more proactive about health, some countries already have decibel limits in place for portable music devices. In accordance with French law, for example, iPods must have the volume capped at 100 decibels. Apple has also voluntarily applied the limit to all iPods sold in Europe. However, there are few such limits in Canada that protect our ears.

Hearing damage can result after listening to just an hour of music using

earbud headphones in the 110-120 decibel range—roughly equivalent to the volume of a concert. The Hearing Foundation of Canada lists overexposure to noise as the number-one cause of hearing loss—even above aging. So do the tunes from our beloved MP3 possessions betray the silence to come? Audiologists predict just that: a generation of iPod lovers with profound hearing damage in later years.

Our society in North America currently has very little regard for the risks of hearing damage. This is partly due to the subtleness of the symptoms, but there’s also a lack of awareness of the issue. As a result, hearing damage often goes unnoticed until the deficit is severe. This is reflected in the general population, as each year hearing loss creeps farther down the age spectrum.

I went to the recent Stabilo concert at the Powerplant, and when I woke up, my ears were still ringing. Did the music need to be that loud? No. Suddenly, concert earplugs were looking like a good idea. Clubs are also big culprits on the repeat offenders list—and I don’t mean the kind you beat seals with, but the kind where you go to get your dance on. Some speculate that nightclubs have the music turned up loud to complement the surreal atmosphere of the dim lights, booze and slutty beer-tub girls. But I personally think that the people who are holding the volume knob on your night out are the same people who hold the volume knob every night, and are probably clinically deaf or close to it. Barring protective legislation or a boycott of the bars—both of which

are unlikely—it seems there’s very little that can be done, however.

Along with regard for their hearing, courtesy is another thing that goes out the window when some people plug in to their iPod. How many times have you had to listen to what the person on the bus beside you was listening to? If the incessant roar out of their ears makes you wince, it’s a wonder what it must sound like to them. In-ear headphones are a great solution for those who use public transit, study in the library or pretty much listen to their iPod anywhere outside of a silent room.

They don’t sit in your ear like traditional “bud” headphones—a rubber piece actually occludes the ear canal to act like ear plugs. They cut out ambient noise so that you don’t have to turn your iPod up in noisy environments. And for those of you who plug into your iPod to drown out reality, you can do so without a flood of brain-numbing beats.

Many people fantasize that one day health care will fix whatever sort of damage they do to their body now. Moreover, many people do not take the daily steps that are necessary to keep themselves healthy. Over the last ten years we have seen health care dramatically improve the course of many “lifestyle illnesses,” from treatment of heart disease to diabetes, and we might see a “fat pill” on the market in the near future. Currently, however, there’s no cure in sight for acoustic trauma injuries caused by high-volume listening over many years. But in the meantime, just turn down your fricking iPod.

## OUR WEEKLY LINEUP

**Mini Burger Mondays:**  
Cure that case of the “Mondays” with 99¢ mini burgers and \$10 jugs. House Rules Apply. 7pm to close

**Karaoke Tuesdays:**  
Downstairs in the LIBRARY. Like Canadian Idol, only our \$8.99 nachos are cheesier than Ben Mulroney. 7pm to close

**Wing Wednesdays:**  
Get in V-formation and migrate to the land o’ 25¢ wings. House Rules Apply 7pm to close

**Loonie Thursdays:**  
\$1 Draught downstairs in the LIBRARY. Celebrate the invention of the loonie. 7pm to close

**Finally Fridays: Extended Happy Hour.**  
“True North strong and nearly free” 3pm to 9pm

**S.O.S. Saturdays:**  
\$2 Highballs downstairs in the LIBRARY. Your wallet is sending out an S.O.S. - Save On Spirits. 9pm to midnight

**Music Trivia Sundays:**  
Test your music IQ. No studying required. \$15 Buckets of Domestic beer! 7 pm to close

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Truth Is Like A Slippery Fish Exhibition

Reception Monday, 23 October at 7pm  
Runs 13 October-25 November  
SNAP Gallery, 10309-97 Street

Great philosophers in human history, such as Aristotle, Kant and The Game have debated the subject of truth. With her impressive artistic abilities and salmon-flavoured similes, Lynne Allen weighs in on truth with her gallery on Native American cultural heritage, dealing with identity and misunderstanding in a way that any thinker or rapper from Compton could appreciate.

The Frog Prince

By Garner Butler and Jeff Unger  
Runs 19-29 October at 7pm weeknights, 2 pm weekends  
La Cite Francophone, 8627-91 Street  
\$12 for Students

In the original Grimm Brother fairy tale, the princess doesn't actually kiss the frog to turn him into a prince; instead, she throws him against a wall in a rage. The musical version that the Alberta Opera is performing likely won't include this violent aristocratic outburst, as it's aimed at kids and has been written with a comedic twist. However, strong opponents of censorship take offence and protest this unjust warping of original material for the simple amusement of small children.



The Cat Empire

With Hayley Sales  
Friday, 20 October at 8pm  
Starlite Room, 18+ Show  
\$20 advance at ticketmaster.ca, Megatunes, Blackbyrd and Listen.

It's highly probable that if the Earth ever exploded, an intelligent civilization of felines would rise up as the sole survivors, since their feet are the only things that could land on the shredded fragments of our planet. Indeed, no surviving flower garden would be safe. Unlike their emotionless ancestors, the spirited *Felis superiora* will develop a unique sound, melding Latin jazz, ska and rock, an energetic musical experience that doesn't require opposable thumbs to enjoy.

Under Uganda Skies

Fundraiser/Charity Event  
Saturday, 21 October at 5:30pm  
Holiday Inn, 4520-76th Ave  
\$30/Group at Earth's General Store (Whyte)

Sponsored by the U of A's Faculty of Nursing and CTV, this charitable gala is being put on by The Child is Innocent Foundation, a non-profit group that provides quality education to children in Northern Uganda. The event will feature door prizes, silent and live auctions, African entertainment and artwork, as well as a speech by Dr Fred Oola from Uganda.

Pretty Girls Make Graves

With Night Canopy and Moon Rats  
Wednesday, 25 October at 8pm  
Starlite Room, 18+ show  
\$8 at door

Pretty girls making graves is every undertaker's dream: hot Victoria Secret models cavorting around the graveyard on foggy nights, bending over just a little too far to dig a hole in the earth with her shovel. Although that 's incredibly appealing, what's more thrilling is that Pretty Girls Make Graves hits the Starlite Room Wednesday, bringing their style of punk to the living, sexy masses.

JOHN KMECH  
I just want to get to know you

Elected as world's busiest musical touring caravan

The Elected's Blake Sennett talks about his musical double life, leading a band and David Bowie

The Elected

With Margot, and the Nuclear So and So's  
Friday, 20 October at 8pm  
The Powerplant

RYAN HEISE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

To call The Elected front man Blake Sennett busy is a bit of an understatement.

As a member of both Rilo Kiley and The Elected, Sennett is accustomed to balancing his time between different projects. The two LA-based bands consist of members that are almost constantly working on multiple enterprises—a fact that Sennett admits can be demanding.

"Right now, we're trying to get the van fixed up so we can go on tour," Sennett says of his latest project, one that leaves him sounding a bit rushed as he answers his phone. But after a few minutes of discussing payment options for the repairs with his colleague in Los Angeles, he comes down from being a businessman and back to the world of a musician—one he's all too familiar with.

"We've been recording an album with Kiley and trying to rehearse for this Elected tour, and it's been kind of difficult," Sennett concedes.

With The Elected's members taking on so many extracurricular activities, it's easy to give them the label of a super group, but Sennett is quick to dispel this notion.

"God no, not really at all," he says. "I think it's just some friends making some music."

The Elected—a band started by Sennett and Rilo Kiley drummer Jason Boesel—released their second album *Sun, Sun, Sun* in January of this year, and have been touring almost non-stop ever since.

The band's most recent North American exploits saw them wandering the US with Toronto-based Stars, as well as opening a few

shows here in Canada with Metric. They were pleased to share stages and audiences with both of these bands, but as Sennett recalls, Rilo Kiley's experience was a bit more eventful when they had to open for Coldplay during a 2005 US tour.

“[The Elected] is a side project and was intended to be and continues to be. It's impossible to put your energy into both bands. There's just not enough time in the day or in your life to have two bands that you can devote equal time to. But in my heart, and in terms of the music, it doesn't feel to me like a side project.”

BLAKE SENNETT

"[The Elected] is a band that's accustomed to seeing really passionate, awesome fans every night who really care about you and really care about your music," Sennett says. "In terms of opening for a band like Coldplay, you're going to see mostly apathetic people, so it wasn't the best experience. It's probably not something we'd do again anytime soon."

Rilo Kiley may get to tour with Coldplay, and The Elected might have to get by, for now, with smaller shows, but the two contrasting projects allow Sennett to reiterate where the priorities of his busy life lie.

"[The Elected] is a side project and was intended to be and continues to be," Sennett says. "It's impossible to put your energy into

both bands. There's just not enough time in the day or in your life to have two bands that you can devote equal time to. But in my heart, and in terms of the music, it doesn't feel to me like a side project."

Ultimately, though, the biggest difference between his two bands is where Sennett places himself in each. As a co-founder of Rilo Kiley, his role in the band is mainly that of a musician, but fronting The Elected with his own songs poses it's own set of challenges.

"If you're not feeling well, you've got to step up and you can't really ever take a night off," Sennett says of The Elected. "As a guitar player you can zone out a little bit more, but as a singer you've got to always be present. I think there's a lot more pressure. They're your songs, so if they suck, it's on you."

But suck they don't. With an eclectic sound that ranges from folk-and-blues-inspired harmonies to fast guitar solos accompanied by prevalent horn sections and melodic piano runs, The Elected's music is often as busy as Sennett himself.

However, their musical complexity doesn't deter the band from performing its songs in a live setting. While they're used to putting pressure on themselves to be as true to their albums as possible, they've now realized that the songs stand on their own, even with the most minimal instrumentation.

"If it's a choice between seeing David Bowie play 'Life on Mars' with the whole orchestra or just an acoustic guitar or piano and his voice, I think I would come away with a similar experience," Sennett says. "It's okay to not to sound like the record, and I think I'm starting to realize that."







# Not your everyday divas

**3 Mo' Divas**  
Directed by Marion J Caffey  
Starring N'Kenge, Jamet Pittman,  
Laurice Lanier, Gretha Boston and  
Andrea Jones-Sojola  
Runs 21 October-12 November  
Citadel Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Bitch. Prima donna. Those are just some of the words that many people associate with the label "diva." Marion J Caffey, creator, director and choreographer of the upcoming show *3 Mo' Divas*, makes it clear that these skewed perceptions don't really describe a diva, and they certainly *don't* apply to the Divas in his theatrical concert.

With *3 Mo' Divas*, Caffey promises that Edmonton is about to see something completely new. The divas are classically trained singers—meaning they're tuned to styles like opera—but in this particular show, they'll sing a total of eight different musical styles.

"It makes it an extraordinary concert,

a spectacular concert, because this isn't an ordinary thing for opera singers to do," Caffey explains. "Edmonton will get a taste of something being done for the first time worldwide."

The musical styles mastered by the divas range all the way from blues to Broadway to spiritual. Singing in English, French, German and Italian, the divas perform everything from operatic pieces by Puccini, Verdi and Gonoud, gospel songs such as "Go Tell It On the Mountain," to music from *The Wizard of Oz*. Caffey also emphasizes that the show features music that younger crowds will recognize.

"We do an off-Broadway from the musical *Wicked* and from *Rent*, and Gladys Knight and Tina Turner," he says.

In fact, Caffey promises that the show is suitable for the whole family, because it doesn't contain adult language, and he thinks that everyone will have a good time.

"Well, if Edmonton is like the rest of the human beings that have seen this show, the effect will ... [cause] people

to do odd things like stand up in the middle of a house and scream, really weird things like 500 people jumping up in the dark at the end of the show, waiting for the lights to come up so they can applaud more," Caffey says excitedly.

"It causes people to do some wacky things, have a great time, not wanna watch CNN when they get home, really crazy stuff like forget about the Iraq war for a couple of hours."

But we still haven't answered one question: just what is a diva?

"It's just a matter of confidence on the verge of arrogance, but not crossing the line," Caffey says.

And according to Caffey, the divas' strong onstage confidence is necessary for this particular show to have its intended effect on the audience.

"I think these divas are defined by transforming the music that allows the audience to be transported," he says. "There are moments that will take your breath away, and moments you will want to shed a tear, but most of the moments, you'll just wanna smile."

# Shortbus shallow, but sexy

**Shortbus**  
Directed by John Cameron Mitchell  
Starring Sook-Yin Lee, Paul Dawson,  
Lindsay Beamish and PJ DeBoy  
Opens Friday, 20 October  
Princess Theatre

DANIEL KASZOR  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Does the idea of one man singing the American national anthem into another man's erect penis make you uncomfortable? Would seeing Sook-Yin Lee have hardcore sex make you ill at ease? Could the sight of a man masturbate to conclusion onto his own face make you squeamish? If the answer is yes to any of those questions then you might be a bit wiggled out by *Shortbus*.

Of course, that's sort of the point. *Shortbus* is all about people pushing their boundaries, both sexual and emotional, and it definitely plays out as the film pushes what's acceptable to be shown in a film, as well as the boundaries of what an audience is comfortable with. And in that respect, it succeeds. Even in a popular culture saturated with pornography, *Shortbus* probably pushes at least a few things that a mainstream audience hasn't seen before. Unfortunately, though,

once you get past the sex, the rest of the movie feels somewhat scattershot.

The movie centres on a group of hipster/yuppies in post-terrorist New York. Primarily, the film follows the story of Sofia (Sook-Yin Lee) as a marriage counsellor who has never had an orgasm, and then relates her story to several others such as Severin, a dominatrix who takes pictures of ground zero before having sex, and Jamie and James, a gay couple dealing with James' predilection for depression.

**Even in a popular culture saturated with pornography, *Shortbus* probably pushes at least a few things that a mainstream audience hasn't seen before.**

When separated from the relatively shocking depictions of sex in the movie, everything hinges on the audience's ability to relate to the characters on a basic level. And at that level, the film is inconsistent. At some points, such as when James is talking about how he used the amount that

his johns would pay him as a way of validating his existence, are poignant. Other times, such as how James finally gets past his depression, are much less effective.

And that's the crux of the film's problem. I was often wrapped up in the problems and emotional lives of the characters, but just as often I wanted to tell them to get over themselves.

So, if the emotional lives of the characters aren't worth going to the film, is it worth it for the titillation? The simple answer is no, as the sex isn't especially appealing, but the question is deeper than that. Does the sex enhance the rest of the film? That depends.

If you're going to see the film because it has a lot of sex in it, you'll probably be disappointed. If the idea of the kind of sex described in the first paragraph of this review is unsettling to you, then it will probably help you get alongside what's going on in the heads of the characters in the film, all of whom have to confront something that makes them uncomfortable on a fundamental level.

If you want to see a piece of rebellious art, check out *Shortbus*. If you want to see something that has consistent emotional depth to it, you should probably keep on looking.

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## OCTOBER featured STUDENT GROUP

### PSUA Political Science Undergraduate Students' Association

Established on U of A Campus: 1999  
Membership: 250 +



### Purpose of the Group:

The PSUA is a department association that represents all political science students at the University of Alberta. Our group provides academic and social functions for our members, in addition to being the undergraduate student liaison with the department.

Recent events provided by the PSUA include the End of Summer Picnic and an outing to Heritage Days. The PSUA helps out the Department of Political Science with Open House and the Department Speakers' Series. We also hold a Graduation Gala at the end of each academic year. Upcoming events include the brown bag lunch discussion on the Liberal Leadership Race on October 12th from 12:30-1:50 in T B 104 and an Aristotle themed toga pub-crawl on October 20th. All events are open to the public!

For information on joining PSUA contact:  
psua@ualberta.ca or www.ualberta.ca/~psua

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